



Cotton/Soybean Insect Newsletter

Volume 7, Issue #5

Edisto Research & Education Center in Blackville, SC

14 June 2012

Pest Patrol Hotline

The information contained herein each week is available via a toll-free hotline. I will update the short message weekly for at least as long as the newsletter runs. Call the free number **(877) 285-8525** and select the messages you would like to hear. Select #1 for updates from the Southern Region. Select #3 for the Southeast, and then select #1 to hear my message. Text alerts are also available. The hotline is sponsored by Syngenta.

Pesticide Shortage?

There has been some very recent news of pesticide shortages. Bayer CropScience issued a statement on Tuesday that they have “sold out” of Baythroid XL for the remainder of 2012. Although they cited supply problems with the active ingredient *beta*-cyfluthrin, they went on to state that they should have enough Leverage 360, which also contains *beta*-cyfluthrin and imidacloprid, for 2012.

News from Above the Lakes

No news to report this week.

News from Below the Lakes

Jonathan Croft, county agent covering Dorchester and Berkeley Counties, reported numerous kudzu bugs on okra (picture on right) in Berkeley County late last week. Charles Davis, county agent covering Calhoun and Orangeburg Counties, reported “in Calhoun County we have relatively decent cotton stands...had some flooding in the lower end of the county and some bottoms drowned out...big issue is going to be weed control. We have a lot of Liberty tolerant cotton and some applications are going out in fields where we can stand up. Top dress fertilizer is on hold until it dries out enough for the heavy spreaders to stand up. Hopefully, with all the rain we have had we managed to drown some insects.”



News from the Piedmont/Upstate

Chris Talley, county agent covering Anderson, Pickens, and Spartanburg Counties, reported that “cotton looks good up here and that growers [are] still seeing kudzu bugs...some are spraying...others are taking the wait and see approach. Jay Crouch, county agent covering Saluda, Newberry, Laurens, Fairfield, and Edgefield Counties, reported that “all is still quiet here with thrips in cotton. We’ve sprayed some next to wheat fields, but nothing real significant. I had a homeowner in a few minutes ago with a bagful of immature kudzu bugs collected from his ornamental wisteria plant. Said there were “thousands” on the plant. I have found adults on soybeans in Newberry, Saluda, and Edgefield counties.”

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Public Service Activities

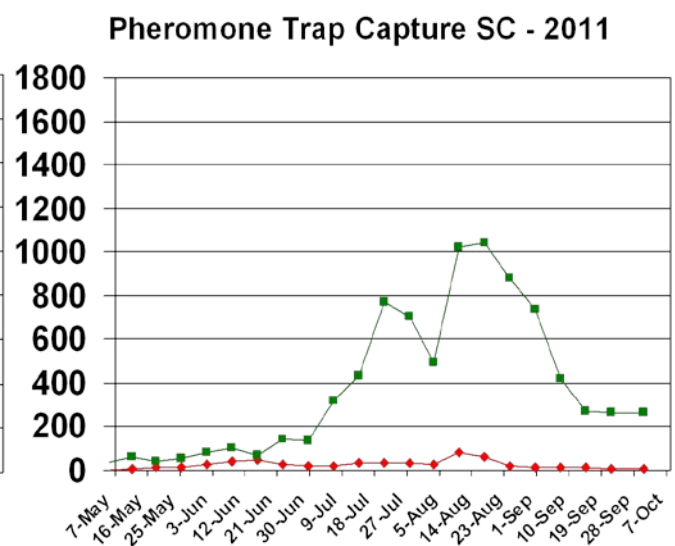
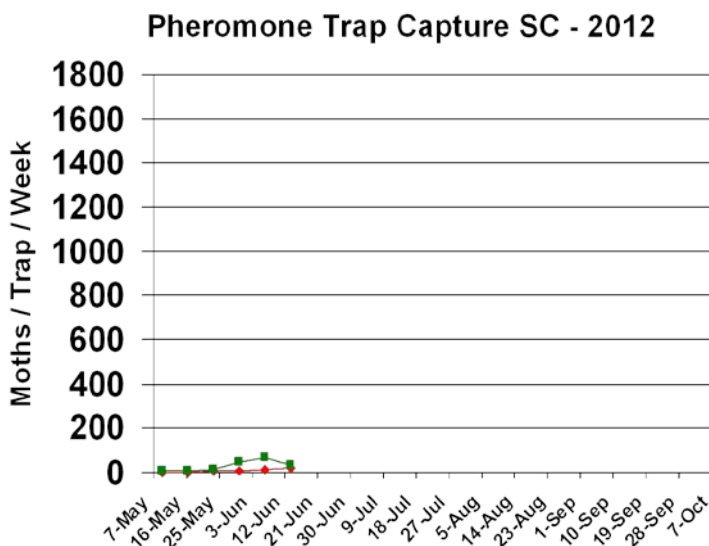
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Bollworm & Tobacco Budworm



Captures of bollworm (BW) and tobacco budworm (TBW) moths in pheromone traps at EREC this season are shown below, as are the captures from 2011 for reference. Current numbers remain on track for historical patterns. Tobacco budworm continues to be important for our soybean acres and for a very limited number of non-Bt-cotton acres. I provide these data as a measure of moth activity in our local area where I use these data as an indication of moth presence and activity near my research plots. The numbers are not necessarily representative of the species throughout the state.



Cotton Situation

As of 11 June 2012, the USDA NASS South Carolina Statistical Office had our progress at about 95% planted, equal to where we were in 2011 and close to the 5-yr average of 97%. About 9% of the crop is squaring, ahead of where we were last year at 2%, with the 5-yr average at 3%. Conditions of the cotton crop are described as 7% excellent, 58% good, 33% fair, 2% poor, and 0% very poor. The recent rains have helped tremendously with the drought, and soil moisture levels in the state have greatly improved at 2% very short, 14% short, 77% adequate, and 7% surplus. These are observed/perceived state-wide averages.

Soybean Situation

As of 11 June 2012, the USDA NASS South Carolina Statistical Office had our progress at 74% planted, behind where we were last year at 77% but ahead of the 5-yr average of 70%. About 54% of planted soybeans have emerged, behind where we were last year at 63% but very close to the 5-yr average of 55%. Conditions of the

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soybean crop are described as 3% excellent, 67% good, 28% fair, 2% poor, and 0% very poor. These are observed/perceived state-wide averages.

Kudzu Bug/Bean Plataspid

Kudzu bugs continue to build in early-planted soybeans in a trial I have at Edisto (inset photo below) where we are measuring the impact of the species on the crop planted on different dates (April, May, and June) and with various maturity groups (IV, V, VI, and VII). If soybeans with infestations of immature kudzu bugs as pictured below (a random spot in my test field) are encountered, my thoughts are that the field should be treated with an insecticide application to protect yield. The bumps on the stems are 1st, 2nd, and some 3rd instars of the kudzu bug, and there are plenty of them! We are going to have to live with some level of adults but not the nymphs!



Spray if you see immature kudzu bug numbers like this in your field

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Our recommendations for managing kudzu bugs in soybeans that were put together during the winter months based on our experiences last year can be found at:

http://www.clemson.edu/extension/kudzubugs/pdfs/kudzu_bug_insecticide_soybeans.pdf

Visit our kudzu bug webpage for the latest information on this new pest:

<http://www.clemson.edu/extension/kudzubugs/index.html>



Eggs



Nymphs



Adults



Pest Management Handbook - 2012

Insect control recommendations are available online in the 2012 South Carolina Pest Management Handbook at:

<http://www.clemson.edu/extension/rowcrops/pest/index.html>

Need More Information?

For more Extension information: <http://www.clemson.edu/extension/>

For historical cotton/soybean insect newsletters:

http://www.clemson.edu/extension/rowcrops/cotton/pest_management/newsletters/index.html

Sincerely,

Jeremy K. Greene, Ph.D.

Associate Professor – Entomologist